

CENTENNIAL BULLETIN



The Centennial Governor Honors the First Governor.

As Governor Lowden laid the wreath on the tomb of Shadrach Bond, on July 4, at Chester, he said: "May we not indulge the hope that the new century just opening may redound as greatly to the credit of Illinois as the century which Governor Shadrach Bond inaugurated."



SCHNEPP & BARNES, STATE PRINTERS
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
1918.

9378—15M

Centennial Bulletin

Number 8. SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, JULY, 1918.

August Celebration at State Capital.

THE next important event in the Centennial celebration will be the Illinois State Fair and Industrial Exposition, which will be held on the State Fair grounds in Springfield from August 9 to August 26, inclusive. Mr. B. M. Davison, secretary, and the members of the State Board of Agriculture have spared no pains to make this exposition in keeping with the significance of the occasion and the importance of the State. A number of especially attractive features have been provided and are announced in the premium list and other publications of the Board.

The Centennial Commission appropriated five thousand dollars, which will be expended for Centennial medals and special Centennial prizes, to be awarded to the different classes of exhibitors. The United States Government will make a very large exhibit, particularly of war relics and war material, and the British Government will also make a similar exhibit. Very many attractions which could not have been obtained for an ordinary State Fair have been readily secured because of the recognized importance of this Centennial Exposition.

The State Capitol has been freshly decorated during the summer, and will be beautifully illuminated for the occasion. The Sangamon County Board of Supervisors has made a special appropriation for the illumination and decoration of the Court House grounds, and the merchants of Springfield are making preparation for the special lighting and decoration of the entire city.

The culminating event will be the celebration to be held on August 26, the hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the first Constitution of Illinois. A great mass meeting will be held at the fair grounds on the afternoon of that date, at which Governor Frank O. Lowden will preside and ex-President Theodore Roosevelt will deliver the principal address. Governors of all the states of the Union have been invited to be present on this occasion, as well as on the 5th of October. The city and fair grounds will be decorated for the occasion and music will be furnished by a number of the finest bands in the country. There will be no charge for admittance to the grounds, and a very large attendance is expected.

On the evening of August 26 "The Masque of Illinois," by Wallace Rice, will be given at the fair grounds on a stage erected for the purpose in front of the amphitheatre. This masque will be given under the auspices of the Centennial Commission and will represent the entire State. In selecting the cast it is planned to secure a number of the leading characters from the different cities of Illinois. This date is one of the most important of the Centennial year, and the Commission has planned to make the observance fittingly commemorate the event.

Illinois Centenarians.

A LARGE number of Illinois citizens have lived during the entire span of the century of statehood of Illinois. A few, in fact, are older than the State.

The Centennial Commission has endeavored to secure information of all centenarians in Illinois and the number reported is much larger than was expected. However, there are doubtless many others whose names have not been reported.

In the one hundred years these centenarians have seen the wonderful progress of the country from a sparsely settled and undeveloped condition. They have seen Illinois grow from a wilderness to a wealthy and progressive commonwealth, surpassing in size, population, and importance many nations of the world.

Mrs. Antoinette Smith of Springfield celebrated her one hundred sixth birthday this year. She was born in the Island of Madiera, but came to America sixty years ago as a religious refugee and has been living in Illinois for half a century.

Another woman who has reached her one hundred sixth birthday is Mrs. Parlesa Ann Keller of Shelbyville, known to her many friends as "Grandma" Keller. She was born in Anderson County, Tennessee, March 6, 1812, and lived there until she was 20 years old, when she moved with her husband in a wagon to Kentucky, and in a few months to Indiana, and shortly afterwards to Illinois. She located in Shelby County, near Shelbyville, and has lived there ever since. For many years she lived in a log cabin on the branch of the Kaskaskia or Okaw River. She spent all of her life in the open and has a great reputation for her knowledge of wild flowers, roots and herbs. She reared fourteen children, five of her own and nine grandchildren, and one of her "boys"—who, by the way, is 66 years old—keeps house for her. She is well preserved.

Another woman who has passed the century mark is Mrs. Mary Potter of Dwight. Mrs. Potter was born in Essex, New York, February 23, 1814. After her marriage to Stephen Potter in 1834, she came west and settled on a farm east of Dwight, purchasing land from the Government. This land has never passed out of the possession of the original purchaser. Her husband died in 1889 and since that time she has been living in Dwight.

Only a few months younger than Mrs. Potter is Mrs. Anna Rider Hawver of Aledo, who was born on October 12, 1814, in Vermont. She and her husband, Monroe French, moved to Galva, Illinois, a few years after their marriage in 1833. Her husband died some years later and she married Charles W. Hawver, who died twenty-five years ago. All of her five children have died and she has no known relatives.

Timothy Carmody of Aurora is one hundred two years old. He was born in Ireland November 4, 1816, and emigrated to this country in his early youth, settling in New York. He moved to Illinois some years ago.

William Smith of Albion reached his one hundredth anniversary on July 1 of this year. He was born in England and came to America when he was 13 years old, settling in Edwards County. He has resided there ever since. About twenty years ago he retired from farming and moved to Albion. There are living of his large family of children five daughters and three sons, forty-one grandchildren, ninety great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Abbie Hall of Aurora was born in Holden, Massachusetts, on March 20, 1818. She came to Aurora in 1856 and has lived there since that time. She had eleven brothers and sisters, but only one sister is living. On her mother's side she was related to the Hastings of England, who trace their lineage back to the royal family of Scotland and England. Her



Some Illinoisans as Old as the State.

daughter, Mrs. Abbie B. Brundage, with whom she lives, states that her mother retains her faculties to a remarkable degree.

Mrs. Harriet Damon Edgerton, who made her home at Jacksonville for many years, looked forward to celebrating her hundredth year on December 22 next. However, last spring she became suddenly ill and died at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 12. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Betsy Stebbins Damon and was born in Monson, Massachusetts. She married Urban C. Edgerton at Pawlet, Vermont, on October 25, 1841, and for several years lived in Rochester, New York, where her husband was in the lumber and contracting business. He built the locks on the Erie Canal at Lockport and also the Genesee Valley Canal. Their names were in the first directory published in Rochester in 1847, and Mr. Edgerton was a member of the general assembly from the Rochester district. The couple moved to Jacksonville in 1856 and Mr. Edgerton built the Chicago & Alton Railroad from that town to Jerseyville. He died in 1863. Mrs. Edgerton was the mother of four children, of whom one son, Curtis Chamberlain Edgerton of Springfield, Massachusetts, survives. Mrs. Annie Cassell Dickson, secretary to Andrew Russel, Auditor of Public Accounts, is a granddaughter of Mrs. Edgerton and the only one of her family residing in Illinois.

Mrs. Jane Wilkie Reid of Virginia will be one hundred one years old on November 6 next. Mrs. Reid was born in Abernathy, Fifeshire County, Scotland, on November 6, 1817, and was married there to Duncan Reid. The couple removed to America in 1855 and settled in Cass County, where they have since resided. Mr. Reid died in 1883.

Mrs. Hannah Sophia Amelia Frohme of Quincy is exactly one year older than the State. She was born in Germany on December 3, 1817, and came to this country in 1846 with her husband, Christian Frohme. Her husband died in 1852. Her life has been one of hard work and frugal living and these are the reasons she assigns for her longevity. She is as well preserved as many are at 75.

Mrs. Deliah King, known in Zion City, where she lives, as "Mother King," was 100 years old on the 23d of last January. She was born in St. John, New Brunswick, on January 23, 1818, and was one of a family of eleven children. Her girlhood was spent in working on a farm, in spinning cotton and wool for homespun. She came to the United States when she was 50 years of age, settling first in California and then removing to Zion City, where she has since resided. She professes to have been miraculously healed of cancer of the tongue in 1884 through prayer.

John Reading of Joliet was born at St. Thomas, Canada, April 9, 1818. He came to Illinois in 1855 and has lived there since that time. He has never been sick. Four members of his father's family lived to be over 100 years of age. His father died in 1898 at the age of 116 years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Moss, who was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on January 20, 1817, had hoped to see the celebration of the Illinois Centennial at her home in Grand Ridge, LaSalle County, but she died on January 2 last, just as the State was entering its one hundredth year. Mrs. Moss removed to Illinois with her husband, Joseph C. Moss, on March 24, 1860, and settled in LaSalle County. There eight sons and one daughter were born to the couple. Her husband died in 1885. Mrs. Moss is survived by six sons, two of whom reside in LaSalle County and four outside of the State.

Fite G. Rossman of Ogle County was born in Schoharie County, New York, October 28, 1817. He came to Illinois in 1856, locating first in Winnebago County and later in Ogle County.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Clarke of Rogers Park was born October 31, 1817, at Warwick, Rhode Island. Her husband was Rev. Ethan Ray Clarke. She came to Chicago ten years ago. She is in excellent health and very active.

October Celebration at Springfield.

ALTHOUGH the Centennial Commission is placing great stress upon the celebration to be held in August, nevertheless it is planned that the greatest celebration of the year shall be held during the first week of October, commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of the first Governor of Illinois and the establishment of our first State Government. The foundation for the Centennial Memorial Building will be in place by that time and the cornerstone of the building laid as a particular feature of the event. The statues of Lincoln and Douglas will have been completed and ready for unveiling, and everything will be in readiness for a truly great celebration. The special Centennial pageant will be given during that week. Details of the celebration will, of course, be worked out.

The governors of the other states of the Union, foreign ambassadors and other important personages will be invited to be present, and the positive assurance that President Wilson will be present, unless unavoidably detained by some unforeseen circumstance, insures a very large attendance from all over the State. It is particularly appropriate that this special occasion should be observed with appropriate and impressive ceremonies.

Vandalia Celebration.

IN outlining its plans for Centennial Year, the Illinois Centennial Commission decided to participate officially in celebrations at the State capital in Springfield, at the site of the first capital in Randolph County, and at the second capital in Vandalia. Some of the observances have been held in Springfield and others are to be held on August 26 and during the first week of October. The observance has been held in Randolph County and plans now are maturing for the celebration in Vandalia.

It will be held on September 26, unless present plans are changed. "The Masque of Illinois," by Wallace Rice, will be one of its principal features. The Centennial Commission will attend in a body and an elaborate program is being arranged.

Mr. Frederick Bruegger, pageant master for the Centennial Commission, is spending considerable time in Vandalia, preparing for "The Masque," which is to be very elaborately staged. Mr. John J. Brown, one of the members of the Centennial Commission, resides in Vandalia and is aiding personally in the organization of the celebration there.

President James on Commission.

TO fill the vacancy caused by the resignation from the Centennial Commission of President Harry Pratt Judson of the University of Chicago Governor Frank O. Lowden has appointed President Edmund J. James of the University of Illinois. President James was a member of the first Centennial Commission and assisted materially in outlining the plans which are being followed by the Commission in the observance of Centennial Year. He is intensely interested in the Centennial work and brings to the Commission the enthusiasm and interest in State affairs for which he is noted.

President James attended the first meeting of the Commission held since he became a member, in Chicago on July 16, and showed a very active interest in the plans for the immediate future.

The University of Illinois is celebrating its semi-centennial and the two celebrations—the centennial of the State and the semi-centennial of the university—are being observed by the faculty and students of the university.

The Centennial on July 4.

FOURTH OF JULY took on an added significance in Illinois this year because of the fact that 1918 is the Centennial year of Illinois' statehood. Many localities combined their celebration of the national holiday with an appropriate Centennial observance and the triumphant day in American history was featured with Centennial pageant and program.

In a spirit of reverent commemoration the story of Illinois was retold from stage, from platform and by procession. The recognition of a glorious past, great in men and measures, served to inspire the people with new zeal for the mighty tasks of the present. Loyalty to State and loyalty to Nation was the dominant note in each celebration, and as in the observances recently held, so in those to come, the purpose running through them all will be to quicken and stimulate the patriotic ardor of the people.

At Kaskaskia and Starved Rock.

State-wide interest centered in the Kaskaskia celebration, which was held at Chester and Fort Gage. The presence of Governor Lowden and the members of the Centennial Commission was a feature of the Kaskaskia observance and added distinction to it. A more detailed account of this observance will be found under a separate heading.

The Starved Rock pageant, given under the auspices of the LaSalle County Centennial Committee at Starved Rock Park, was one of the most notable celebrations staged in the State. The pageant was given on July 4, 5 and 6. More than a thousand persons participated in it and they were splendidly trained and marshalled under the leadership of Mrs. Florence Magill Wallace, pageant director. To her untiring efforts, assisted by the patriotic zeal of the women of LaSalle County, the pageant owed much of its success.

More than 15,000 people witnessed the production, which was highly artistic in its historic and patriotic setting.

It was divided into three parts:

Part I. Allegorical—Making the earth a suitable abode for Civilization.

Part II. Historical—Making the earth ready for Brotherhood.

Part III. Prophetic—Making the world safe for Democracy.

The coming of Father Marquette and Louis Joliet, the arrival of LaSalle and Tonti, the debut of Miss Illinois and the reunion in 1860 of the leading celebrities of the State at Starved Rock, with Lincoln and Douglas as the chief guests of honor, were features of the historical part of the pageant.

In the grand finale Columbia entered, driving with long, blue lines, her maidens, who were costumed in red hats and white dresses. The maidens formed into different figures, in one of which they spelled out the name of Illinois. The pageant closed with the songs, "Illinois" and "America."

The Starved Rock pageant was elaborately conceived and artistically executed. It will justly take its place as one of the great Centennial celebrations held in the State.

The proceeds realized from the pageant were devoted to the benefit of the Red Cross. H. W. Johnson of Ottawa is the chairman of the LaSalle County Centennial Committee.

At Jacksonville.

Under the auspices of the Morgan County Historical Society, a Centennial processional pageant was given at Jacksonville on the Fourth of July, in which the historic points in the State's growth were represented.

Floats symbolic of events in sequence from the earliest occupation by the Indians down to the present time appeared in the long parade.

The purpose of the parade was to add to the general sum total of patriotism and to visualize the important facts in connection with the development of Illinois' statehood. Each float had its own meaning. Great care and effort were expended to make the floats truly representative, both from the standpoint of epoch and character.

Four heralds on horseback proclaimed the pageant, and these were followed by the grand marshal and his aides, who in turn were followed by the Home Guards of Morgan County, acting as an escort for the members of the Grand Army. Then came the Indians, followed by the French, the British, and finally the Americans under George Rogers Clark. The first float was of Father Marquette and Louis Joliet. A feature of the parade was a yoke of oxen hitched to a prairie schooner.

A replica of the first engine that ran in the Mississippi Valley, as well as the first engine to run in Illinois, was made by the employees of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis car shops. This replica was made outside of working hours and all material was furnished by the Morgan County Historical Society. It attracted great attention and comment as it moved down the street. The people of the State will have a further opportunity to see this replica at the State Fair in Springfield.

The twelve major generals that Illinois furnished during the Civil War were represented in Civil War costumes. The number of floats totaled forty-five, the last float being of a patriotic character and containing the Morgan County Service Flag, artistically draped. Following this float was a procession of boys representing the soldiers of Morgan County who are now in the service of their country. Each boy carried a flag, wore a patriotic cap and had the name of the soldier he represented pinned across his chest.

The parade was reviewed on the public square, and at its conclusion a program of patriotic exercises was carried out, a feature of the program being the presentation of the Morgan County Service Flag to the local Exemption Board.

This processional pageant, which was confined strictly to Illinois history and patriotism, and from which every bit of advertising was barred, marked the culmination of an undertaking which evoked hearty words of praise.

T. W. Callahan of Galesburg was the general director of this pageant and Miss Grace Tyner White of LaFayette, Indiana, was the pageant artist. Charles H. Rammelkamp is president of the Morgan County Historical Society.

At St. Charles.

Kane County united in a Centennial celebration at St. Charles. The celebration served to bring all portions of the county together for the first time in the history of the present generation. The parade was the greatest military spectacle ever seen in Kane County. Everything in it pertained to war. After the parade the activities were transferred to Pottawatomie Park, where a crowd of about ten thousand people gathered. Here a tableau, representing historic scenes, was given under the direction of Mrs. George S. Montgomery of Elgin, and a program of exercises was held, presided over by Judge S. N. Hoover, president of the Kane County Centennial organization. A replica of the first locomotive to enter Kane County was a part of the parade and attracted much attention. A feature of the celebration was a beautifully designed arch of welcome in gold and white and glazed with the Centennial dates in gold.

The press of Kane County declares the pageant aroused to a high degree the patriotic fervor of the true American.

At Rockford.

Rockford's contribution to the Illinois Centennial program was in the nature of a beautiful historical pageant, entitled "The Tribe of Men," presented under the direction of Roy L. Kittle. The pageant represented four important stages in the State's history, namely, the Indian period in 1675, the Pioneer period in 1818, the Civil War period in 1860, and the period of to-day.

The production had its beginning with wierd Indian music by the 343d Infantry Band, the Illini Indians entering and occupying the lands of the State. Following this realistic introduction came the other events in Illinois history strikingly brought out, including Father Hennepin, LaSalle, Tonti, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, representation of General Grant and other men prominent in the history of the State.

The final scene in the pageant was symbolic of the World War, in which Columbia calls upon the wealth, mercy and men of her nation to exhibit the true spirit of humanity. The pageant at Rockford reflected the highest credit upon all who had it in charge and called forth praise from the vast multitude who witnessed it.

At Anna.

People were present from many Southern Illinois counties at Anna on the Fourth of July, where an Illinois Centennial masque was given. Over three hundred people were in the cast and nearly six thousand people witnessed the presentation. The program was opened by the reading of the Independence Day message of President Wilson. No effort had been spared to make the Anna pageant a credit to Southern Illinois, and in magnitude and splendor it takes high rank with the other celebrations held throughout the State. Miss Dorothy E. A. Rundel, of Harvey, was the director for this pageant.

At Hoopeston.

The Centennial celebration at Hoopeston proved to be the biggest event of its kind in the town's history. The Hoopeston Chronicle, in speaking of the celebration, declared: "The combination of the State Centennial and the great war created more interest in the Fourth of July celebration than ever before, and there were more people present, a better entertainment was given, and the people were better satisfied than ever before, and there were no fireworks."

There was an industrial and historical parade in the morning and an historical pageant in the afternoon under the direction of Miss Edith Mann. The procession was over a mile long and contained a number of attractively designed floats. In addition to the parade and pageant, patriotic addresses were given in connection with the afternoon and evening program. Adjutant General Frank Dickson made the principal address in the afternoon.

At Carthage.

Carthage staged a successful Centennial pageant on the Carthage College campus. The pageant was in six episodes, as follows:

- Episode No. I. The Masque of the Elements.
- Episode No. II. Indians.
- Episode No. III. George Rogers Clark at Kaskaskia.
- Episode No. IV. The Mormons—a tableau—1846.
- Episode No. V. Freeport Debate, 1858.
- Episode No. VI. Illinois answers Columbia's call.

All of the episodes were well portrayed by an excellent cast of more than three hundred persons. Press reports speak most highly of the Freeport Debate episode, stating that it was elaborately given, with the men and women in ante-bellum costumes supporting the two candidates, Lincoln and Douglas, which gave the scene a spritely interest.

The pageant was given as a Red Cross benefit. The expenses were \$40 and the net proceeds for the Red Cross \$80.

Other Celebrations.

Beardstown, Cass County; Newport Township, in Lake County; Lincoln, in Logan County; Elgin, in Kane County; Decatur, in Macon County, are among the other cities in Illinois which had Centennial programs in connection with the Fourth of July celebration. In several of these cities the Centennial celebration was planned so that the proceeds would be devoted to the benefit of the Red Cross.

Among other counties to announce the dates of their Centennial celebrations recently are Woodford County, whose Centennial organization is planning for an elaborate observance at Metamora on August 22, and Liberty, in Adams County, where a pretentious program has been advertised for August 8. The Centennial program at Liberty will also commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of an annual picnic celebration which has been held at this place, which is usually attended by between four and five thousand persons.

Lincoln and Douglas Statues.

THE bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, by Andrew O'Connor of Worcester, Massachusetts, was delivered in Springfield on July 16 and has been set up in preparation for the dedication, which will take place on October 5. The statue of Stephen A. Douglas, by Gilbert P. Riswold, also has been delivered and the foundation for it is being erected.

The Lincoln statue stands on an elaborate pedestal which has been erected at the Capitol Avenue entrance of the State Capitol. The background of the figure is a huge slab of light granite, upon the back of which is carved Lincoln's farewell address to the citizens of Springfield as he took the train for Washington. The Department of Public Works and Buildings, the State Art Commission, and Secretary of State Louis L. Emmerson agreed that the Riswold statue of Douglas should be erected on the left hand and to the north of the Lincoln statue.

The statue of Menard, which stands on this spot, will be moved to a position south of the Lincoln statue for the present. Eventually it is the intention to erect a statue of Ulysses S. Grant on this spot and possibly to locate the Menard statue in the grounds of the new Centennial Memorial building, which is to be constructed south of the Capitol.

It is the hope of the Centennial Commission that President Wilson will be here to attend the unveiling of the statues of Lincoln and Douglas and the laying of the corner stone of the Centennial building in October. The President has given assurances that he will come unless some unexpected international complication keeps him in Washington.

CELEBRATION AT OLD SALEM.

The Old Salem Lincoln League has completed all its plans for the celebration on New Salem Hill, near Petersburg, on August 16. The League has located the sites of the principal buildings in the town made famous by the residence there of Lincoln in his early manhood, and logs have been cut for the reconstruction of most of the buildings. The reconstructed buildings will include the Rutledge Inn, where Lincoln boarded and where he met Ann Rutledge; the Lincoln & Berry store, and a large number of the other houses closely associated with Lincoln's day. The pageant representing life at New Salem as it was in Lincoln's day, will be given with these buildings and the reconstructed road through the village as a background.

To Illinois.

A CENTENNIAL ODE.

[By Luzetta Ruble Sanders,
Canton, Illinois.]

[Note by Editor—This Ode, one of the best of the many furnished the Commission, is published as an expression of the fine Centennial Spirit pervading Illinois during this Centennial year.]

I.

O Illinois, dear Illinois,
Our mother, thou, brave Pioneer!
Thy great birthday we keep with joy,
We've all come home to thee this year.

II.

Once more oh, let us feel the thrill
Of tales of those long vanished days,
When savage red men roamed at will,
And white men feared the forest maze;
Of deeds of daring, now long famed;
Of those Illini, "perfect men"—
The mighty tribe for whom thou'rt named—
We'd hear the story all again,
The "perfect men"—how high the mark
The red men for thy children set,
These fiery letters in the dark
They blazoned, lest we should forget.

III.

Thy pioneer home life we'd see,
How warm the welcome was, indeed,
Like thy own prairies, broad and free,
To men of every name and creed!
There came, unheeding gain or loss,
Marquette and Hennepin, how brave!
In pathless waste to lift the cross,
The Indians to bless and save,
And others—Tonti, Joliet,
The great LaSalle, intrepid, bold—
We've heard it all, and yet
The moving story ne'er grows old.

IV.

George Rogers Clark, of him we'd hear,
The one we children loved the best,
The great Virginian without fear,
Who grandly won the great Northwest.
'Twas he, discerning all 'twould mean,
From England dared to set thee free.
A valiant band with purpose keen
He leads—a man of action he—
Through swirling flood those heroes go,
Half-armed, and numbered by the tens;
Before them fall, with scarce a blow,
Kaskaskia and old Vincennes,
How Clark pulled England's standard down—
'Tis better than romance to read—
For starry flag each fort to crown,
O wonderful and glorious deed!
While swell the waves of grasses tall,
To greet the flag of freedom's light;
In answering cadence rise and fall,
The billowy folds of the banner bright,
The stars and stripes now floated free,
As far as Mississippi's tide;
The flag of commonwealths to be,
Kept loving watch o'er prairies wide.

V.

Thy early home—the broad domain,
For thee thy sturdy sons had cleared.
Tell, how among that noble train,
In time, Nathaniel Pope appeared.
'Twas he, who with prophetic view,
Beholding mighty things in store,
Stayed not, till wider boundaries grew;
And Michigan now bathes thy shore.

VI.

Pray tell us how thy life began
 Mid states half-slave, half-free, the best;
 Behold, in the Creator's plan,
 A white star in the glorious West.
 Then would we hear how men once sought,
 By slavery's stain to dim the light;
 How Coles, undaunted, bravely fought;
 Through him, the star was kept all white.
 Explain once more just what it meant,
 That crucial time, to keep thee free—
 The part it had—the great event
 That shaped a nation's destiny.

VII.

In darkest hour, the nation's life
 At stake, in time of direst need,
 With house divided, plunged in strife,
 Thy brave sons gave their all indeed.
 Show how thy Lincoln came, that he
 Might save for men, all things of worth.
 He wrought, and lo! Democracy
 Did then not "perish from the earth".
 Thine eye doth light, thy face doth shine—
 Revered and praised by countless throngs—
 O great and wondrous truth, he's thine!
 Yet "to the ages he belongs".

VIII.

O speak another magic word;
 'Tis "Grant", which tells of battles won.
 His name with Lincoln's must be heard,
 And proud art thou of thy great son.
 Of Grant, the grim, determined Chief;
 The years do but his fame increase.
 With deeds how great, with words how brief,
 He "fought it out"—the way to peace.

IX.

Of brilliant, gifted Douglas tell,
 How men to him their homage paid;
 His eloquence, a magic spell,
 The list'ning thousands held and swayed.
 With power to see beyond the years,
 Great service gave thy statesman son;
 With foresight, year, above his peers—
 Foresight in issues—all save one.
 Yet for the Union did he plead
 With all his eloquence; e'en more,
 To Lincoln true, in word and deed
 Was he—aye loyal to the core.

X.

From past, to present we are drawn,
 Still art thou queen within thy home;
 The rude log cabin now is gone;
 Instead, is palace, hall, and dome.
 With sculpture, art, and wealth to bless,
 Our mother, gathered home once more,
 We bow before thee, and confess
 That dangers threaten, tempting sore.
 We fear that, in this life intense,
 Well versed in civilization's ways,
 We miss the homespun common sense
 Of sturdy, old log cabin days.

XI.

And other dangers lurk within—
 Thy children sordid ways may choose,
 And all the glittering baubles win,
 The while, real things of worth they lose
 A danger comes, unknown before;
 The dreaded foe is o'er the sea—
 Across the sea—yet at our door
 To take our sons—Ah, can it be?
 Need we baptism of fire, to burn
 From out our souls the clinging dross,
 That we may rightly now discern,
 What is our gain, and what is loss?

Our mother, at this sacred time,
 All with thy spirit great, imbue;
 Unto thy children's deed sublime,
 And glorious past, we would be true!
 In other days, a nation's weal
 In thy proud hands was laid;
 And now, through us, oh let us feel
 The haughty foe shall yet be stayed.
 And in a coming, glorious hour,
 The hosts of darkness backward hurled,
 May thine, e'en be the wondrous power,
 To save a torn and bleeding world!

The Chicago Celebration.

THROUGH the cooperation of the Illinois Centennial Commission and the State Council of Defense, a great patriotic and Centennial celebration will be held in Chicago some time early in October. The definite date has not yet been fixed. The details for the celebration are being worked out by the State Council of Defense and the Centennial Commission.

It is the intention to make the observance an inspiration to future endeavor. This is in harmony with Governor Lowden's proclamations on the Centennial, in all of which he has urged that the Centennial shall be used as an opportunity for renewing our courage by recalling the achievements of our first hundred years.

A great many local celebrations have been held in Chicago and others will be held during the year. In many school centers and recreation centers "The Masque of Illinois" and the "Six Little Plays" by Wallace Rice, pageant writer for the Centennial Commission, have been given and a large number of programs touching on the Centennial or devoted entirely to it have been featured in every section of the city. The Centennial idea has permeated Chicago, as it has the down-State.

However, it is the desire of the Council of Defense, the Centennial Commission, and many other patriotic organizations to have a great central celebration, which will arouse the entire people to the significance of Centennial Year.

It is for this reason that the Council of Defense and the Centennial Commission have decided to cooperate in this central celebration.

Council of Defense to Help.

THE Woman's Committee of the Illinois State Council of Defense, seeing the opportunity in arousing community and patriotic enthusiasm, has undertaken the task of securing the presentation of "The Masque of Illinois," by Wallace Rice, in every county in the State. Mrs. Alice Manning Dickey of Chicago has been appointed chairman of the committee which has this matter in hand. Her committee has taken hold of the campaign in earnest and results already are being obtained. Mr. Frederick Bruegger, pageant master of the Centennial Commission, is working in cooperation with the committee.

In a report submitted to the Centennial Commission by Mrs. Dickey on July 15 she stated that already twenty-two county chairmen have responded to the plea that pageants be presented and have selected towns in their counties as places at which a pageant should be given. The pageant committees have been appointed in Adams County and Whiteside County, and organization for presentation of pageants will be made in other counties very rapidly. Adams County has taken up the proposition enthusiastically and proposes to interest every township in the county in it.

Kaskaskia Celebration.

THE pilgrimage of Governor Frank O. Lowden, other State officers, and the Illinois Centennial Commission to Kaskaskia on July 4 stands out as one of the striking features of the Centennial celebration. The day was crowded with interest, and all who attended felt well repaid for the time spent in this observance in honor of the first capital of the State.

The official party left Springfield in a special Pullman ear early on the morning of July 4 and arrived in Chester at noon. Under the direction of the Randolph County Centennial Committee, elaborate arrangements had been made for the celebration in Chester. A parade was held during the morning, a great mass meeting during the afternoon and "The Masque of Illinois" was given in the evening.

At 1:30 o'clock the official party went to the mass meeting in the high school grounds. At this meeting, which was presided over by Judge A. E. Crisler, Hugh S. Magill, Jr., director of the Centennial celebration, read the Declaration of Independence; Wallace Rice, pageant writer of the Centennial Commission, read his original poem, "The Freeing of Illinois," and Governor Lowden spoke. Fifteen thousand people were present and this enormous crowd, the largest ever seen in Chester, were thrilled by the Governor's patriotic and inspiring address.

Immediately after the Governor's address the official party went to Evergreen cemetery, where, in a simple ceremony, the Governor placed a wreath of flowers upon the tomb of Shadrach Bond, the first Governor of the State. In placing the wreath, Governor Lowden said: "It is a great privilege to be able to bring this wreath to the tomb of the first Governor of Illinois. May we not indulge the hope that the new century, just opening, may redound as greatly to the credit of Illinois as the century which Governor Shadrach Bond inaugurated."

The party then immediately drove to Fort Gage, where, on a platform overlooking the old cemetery in which the dead of Kaskaskia are buried, and the site of old Kaskaskia itself, a brief program was given. Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, chairman of the State Centennial Commission, presided. Bishop Althoff of Belleville delivered the invocation. Mrs. Gary Westerberger sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Mr. Frederick Bruegger read Mr. Rice's ode to Kaskaskia, and Governor Lowden spoke briefly.

The party then took the train and returned to Springfield.

Address at Chester.

In his address at Chester the Governor said:

It is indeed fitting that one of the great celebrations of this centennial year should be held in Randolph County, for here we are nearer the beginnings of Illinois, the real beginnings of Illinois, than we could be at any other spot within our boundaries.

Within a very short distance from here were old Kaskaskia and Fort Gage; a little farther were Prairie du Rocher and Fort Chartres, and so here more than any other place within the State, memories sweep in from our earliest years.

It is indeed a very notable fact that for almost one hundred years within this county there was transplanted a bit of old France, and that old bit lived in peace and happiness and security with a wilderness all about it. It is almost impossible to explain the fact that here for one hundred years was a civilization when the savages roamed the woods and prairies on every hand. So to-day the Centennial Commission planned wisely when it planned to have this celebration here.

During all those earliest years the accounts that come to us make those days rich in romance. Little Kaskaskia, insignificant if measured by the number of its inhabitants, had life that gave color and hope to all this western land. When at the close of the French and Indian war Kaskaskia became a part of the British soil and the *Fleur de Lis* was hauled down that the Cross of St. George might be run up in its place, the character of the town changed but little. The French remained; their old mode of life remained, as the records in your courthouse here disclose. For a few years Kaskaskia was nominally under French rule, but in fact the life of the city changed hardly at all.

It is just one hundred and forty years ago to-day that that little army of which Mr. Rice has written so beautifully, came upon the scene; an army smaller than an infantry regiment; smaller in fact than even a battalion of an infantry regiment of to-day,—recruited largely in Virginia, and sailing down the Ohio, disembarked at Fort Massac on our southern boundary. The original purpose was to sail down to the mouth of the Ohio and up the Mississippi to Kaskaskia by your own present site of Chester. In order, however, to surprise the enemy, George Rogers Clark disembarked

his force at Fort Massac, marched through the storms, through the woods and over the prairies until on July 4, 1778, he reached the environs of that old town. There he divided his army into two parts, one of which he sent into the streets of the town, the other, which he commanded in person, went to take Fort Gage, which contained, as you know, the garrison for the protection of the territory in this vicinity. Both parties were successful and again the sovereignty of Kaskaskia changed. The flag of England came down and the Stars and Stripes were run up in its place. (Applause).

Thus it happened that that little expedition, smaller in numbers I have said than a single battalion of a modern infantry regiment, conquered for the United States, a vast empire; an empire larger than the territory over which the armies of the civilized world have been raging during the last four years, because after the fall of Kaskaskia it was made possible for him to go on farther up and seize Vincennes, and in that way this vast Northwest was added first to the Domain of Virginia, afterwards to the Territory of the United States.

We are indeed on historic ground. I never come to Chester that I do not feel under the spell of those early days as I cannot feel anywhere else within our borders. Upon this great bluff whereon we stand to-day, you have a view across the Father of Waters, and over the fields on the other shore you have sweeping in from every side the memories of more than two hundred years of civilization. I never come here that I do not resolve that at some time in my life I will come and spend a few days; I want to come here and examine at leisure the priceless records which are contained within your vaults in your courthouse, and to study anew and to dream over the early beginnings of what I believe to be the greatest State in the entire union of States. (Applause).

So, my friends, it is not only fitting that we should be here to-day, it is not only doubly fitting that we should have selected our natal day for this celebration, but it is peculiarly appropriate that we should be gathered here in territory above which have floated at different times, not only the Stars and Stripes, but also the English Flag and the French Flag, because those three flags to-day are flying side by side on the greatest battle line of history, facing a common foe, a foe not only of the three countries which those flags symbolize, but a foe to all mankind, a foe to civilization everywhere the wide world round. (Applause).

When this war commenced there were many of our people who could not understand all that it meant. There were those among us who said, "The war is three thousand miles away", and so it seemed at that time. We who loved peace, who have become accustomed to peace, could hardly believe that a nation in this twentieth century of the Christian era would start out to conquer the world, would set out to terrorize the world with practices of frightfulness such as the world had never seen; but as we followed the armies of the Central Empires across the Belgian frontier, we found that they had been frankly telling the truth when they taught for a half a century that nations are above the moral law, and that no ethical consideration binds them to their pledged word. They had solemnly guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium, and yet, referring to the treaty in which they made that guarantee as but a scrap of paper, their hosts swept across upon the people of poor little unoffending Belgium. Then we began to see that a nation that had set out upon this career of conquest, threatened us, our independence, our security, as it threatened all the rest of the world. This war, "three thousand miles away!" I want to tell you my friends, from the bottom of my heart, I believe this war is nearer to our hearts and our hearthstones than any war in all our past. (Applause).

We have had great wars before. There are those here to-day who wear the little bronze button that signifies another great war that we in this country had fought. I want to tell you that dark as were the days during the early part of that war, that there was never a moment when it meant as much to the people of this land as this war which is raging around the world to-day. Because, at that time, no matter which side had won there would have been some kind of a country left for the people of the North as of the South. We of the North believed that that country, if we had lost, would have been fragmentary and incomplete. We know that it would have fallen far short of its glorious destiny, but there would have been some country left which we could have called our own. There would have been some part of this continent above which would have floated the American Flag, some place where we could have found a home; but if this war in which we are engaged to-day should go against us, which God forbid, we will not even have a fragment of a country left, because every foot of our land will be under the iron heel of Prussian military despotism forever more so far as man can see. There will be no place we can call our home. There will be no room in all the sky for the American flag, or for any other banner of liberty, because this war is the final battle between the powers of autocracy on the one hand, and the powers of self-government on the other. That is not a new battle. It has raged in all the centuries at some place or another. It is the old war between the God-given right of man to rule himself or the divine right of kings, so-called, to impose slavery upon all the world. It is the old battle. Heretofore that battle has been limited to one land, to one scene of action, to one theater of war; but to-day all the nations of the globe are involved. That battle is flaming all about the world. Upon the one hand are those forces which believe that mankind is incapable of governing itself; upon the other all the forces which have faith in the worthiness, in the dignity, in the ability of man everywhere to captain his own soul. (Applause).

When this war is over all the earth will be one thing or the other. All the world will be free, or all the world will rest beneath the power of the cannon and the sword for at least a thousand years. That is the issue which is involved in this struggle, and that is why, on this Fourth of July people are gathering as they have never gathered before on our National birthday to read again the mighty truths contained in the Declaration of Independence, and to resolve anew that at whatever cost of men or money, we will carry on this war for democracy, for humanity, for civilization, aye, for religion, until we shall have driven forever the black flag which Prussian autocracy has run up, from the sky of all the world. (Applause.)

The fourth of July in the past has been our national holiday; to-day it is an international holiday. In England wherever the Cross of St. George flies, along side of it are the Stars and Stripes, and men over there are celebrating for the first time that event which lost England her colonies. I want to remind you that it is not as inappropriate as it might seem for England to join with us in our Fourth of July celebration, because England was not a unit in its war with us. The greatest souls of England,—Burke, Pitt, Fox, all of their greatest men were with the colonies,—with the colonies openly in that war. They too were fighting in the Parliament of England

against George the Third for their own liberties, and our triumph was really the triumph of the people of England. We won not only our own independence, but we helped the liberty-loving portion of the British population to enlarge their own freedom, and the divine right of kings was buried forever in the grave with George the Third. To-day England is as great a democracy, England gives the same privileges to her children that we give to ours.

It is fitting, very fitting, that in Paris also they are celebrating our Fourth of July, not only because of long friendship, but because of the views of her people now and our people now. Away back in those days which followed the solemn event which Senator Magill has brought so clearly to your minds to-day, France, then it is true a monarchy, sent Lafayette to our shores to assist us to win our liberties, and who can tell but for the assistance of the French soldiers and sailors, what the result of our Revolutionary War would have been.

Not only did that help us to win our liberties, it helped France again to win hers. The Lilies of France which Lafayette brought across the seas, which represented the Bourbon dynasty, were followed in a few years by the French Tri-color, and that banner speaks of the equal rights of mankind just as eloquently as does our own, or as does the modern Cross of St. George.

Our Revolution, therefore, not only brought independence to America, but under its indirect influence it helped the great liberty loving statesmen of England to become masters of her future. It enabled France to throw off its tyranny and to erect in its stead a republic. As these three flags have floated, one after another above old Fort Gage, a few miles from your door, so they have influenced one another from the dawning of our history, until to-day all three, representing the God given inalienable rights of man as against the spurious divine right of kings, have a right, standing for the same great things, to float side by side on the Western Front. (Loud Applause.)

You of Randolph County, you for one hundred and forty years—an even one hundred and forty years, have lived secure and free and independent underneath the Stars and Stripes, so I can understand the sacrifices which you are making. I can understand the spirit of this meeting, because you know that now the final assault upon the independence and upon the supremacy of that flag is being made along the most stupendous battle fronts of history. Oh, my friends, nothing matters unless we win this war. I can't understand, to save my life, how people can at this time give any thought to any consideration of all the future beyond the winning of this war. (Applause.)

If we do not win it, the future matters not to any of us. If we should lose, if we should come under the domination of the Imperial Court at Berlin, then I say, and I say with all soberness, that the only Americans to be envied are those who are filling foreign graves and who have given up their lives that our country may live. (Applause). Rather, infinitely rather, should any man who loves his wife or child—prefer to sleep among the flowers of Flanders or France than to survive this war unless we shall win a victory before its end. (Applause).

I have seen a lot of your boys; I have seen boys from all over the State, because it has been a part of my duty to visit the camps where Illinois boys are stationed. I have seen the wonderful improvement that those boys have made, from week to week. As I have looked into their clear eyes and upstanding figures I have felt a thrill of pride in Illinois I had not known before, because I want to tell you that your honor and your future are safe in the hands of those young men. (Loud Applause). If you could only see them as I have seen them you would have no feeling of surprise at the news which comes from that portion of the battle front held by American soldiers. Our men fight not only with their brawn, but they fight with their brains. They fight in the knowledge that they are fighting for the dearest things in all the world; and that makes an army invincible when brute force fails. (Applause).

I want also to say to the mothers, because the mothers always have the hardest part, that you need have no fear for your boys. They go proudly, they go happily; they know that even though they fall their life will be more rounded and complete, will be a finer life in every way than though in piping times of peace they had lived a half a century more.

You need not fear for the conduct of those boys, I want to tell the mothers. The other day I received a paper published by our expeditionary forces in France, and found that the main item of interest in the life of our soldiers at the front to-day is adopting some little orphan boy or girl of some patriot who has given up his life for liberty. (Applause). Different companies, different individuals are saving from their salary in order that they may raise a fund to take care of these little boys and girls of sacred France. When your boys are thinking about the orphan children of our Allies, they are not going to do anything to disgrace you in their conduct in any way. I want to tell you they are safe.

We won't have as many young men when this war is over, but we will have a finer lot of young men than we have ever had in our past.

Just one other thought, then I am going to close. You know, things were not going very well with us before the war. We were getting to be a very selfish people; we were thinking of material things only. Discipline was breaking down everywhere, breaking down in the home, in the school and in the church, aye! and in the Nation. We were getting to look upon our citizenship as of no special value; we were coming to regard it as something which imposed duties upon the country toward us, and no duties upon us towards our country. We were becoming very fond of the flesh-pots. The old idea of your brotherhood which your fathers and forefathers in the days of old Fort Gage knew so well was in some way slipping away from us. The old ideas of neighborliness which we knew when the country was newer were disappearing. We were living within ourselves too much. The Master's definition of who are neighbors had entirely escaped us so far as our practice went. Maybe this war was needed. At any rate I see a new light shining in the eyes of the men and women, aye! and the boys and the girls of to-day that I have not seen for years. We were thinking too much of the things that you touch and handle and too little of the spiritual things of the world, and now that we are engaged in a conflict in which the material threatens to overwhelm all the spiritual forces of the universe, we are having a revival in our hearts and minds of the old ideals which our fathers and our mothers taught us and believed. When this War is over I have the faith to believe with all my heart that we are going to have a better country and a better civilization than we have had in all our past. I believe that under the providence of God we shall not have made these sacrifices in vain. I believe, just as I know that victory must finally come to our armies because there is still a God in the Heavens, so do I believe with equal faith that when the war is over we are going to have a better world than we have had in all the past.

To you people of this historic old county, one of the few above which have floated in succession these three great flags of democracy, to you, who are the favored above most of the people of your State, I think I can say, Illinois, which is just closing a century of glorious history in this centennial year here, and in the first years of her second century, is going to be worthy of her historic past. I thank you. (Loud applause).

Address at Fort Gage.

The Governor's address at Fort Gage was particularly striking. He spoke as follows:

This is indeed historic ground on which we stand. While the main exercises of the day were held at Chester, it is exceedingly appropriate that we should pause here long enough on this beautiful afternoon to pay our little tribute to the pioneers of Kaskaskia in this great American bottom.

It is difficult for us of Illinois to realize that our written history extends so far back. It is hard for us to realize that long before George Washington was born we had a civilized and well ordered and happy and a joyous community within our border, and yet, that is the fact. It is difficult for us to realize the heroism of the men who founded these first towns and villages in Illinois,—Joliet, Marquette, LaSalle and Tonti. In fact, there never has been a braver, a more heroic, nor a more unselfish band of pioneers than the pioneers with which we connect Illinois' earliest history.

The motive of the first was to bring the blessings of Christianity to the savages who then inhabited Illinois, and just as in those far off days, more than two hundred years ago, the motive of the first visitors to Kaskaskia was humane, unselfish and for the benefit of others, so it is fitting that at this time we should celebrate their virtues when their descendants,—those who are worthy of their great heritage are engaged again in a war, not for themselves, but for others, and it is in the spirit of Father Marquette, of Joliet, of LaSalle, of Tonti, and of many others I might name that more than a million of our men to-day are across the seas fighting under the allied banners of the three lands who have at one time or another held jurisdiction over old Kaskaskia.

It is a great story as well as a beautiful one. I like to think of the long ago days when life was bright and full and free in Kaskaskia. I like to think of that visit of LaFayette when he came up the river and disembarked at Kaskaskia, and when he was met by a son of his old friend and comrade, Alexander Hamilton, who had been sent by the Governor of the State to give welcome to the old friend of his father. I like to think of the hours that he spent here, and one of the most delightful stories in our annals is the story that the writers of that time give to LaFayette's visit.

And so the romance that shines in Illinois history more largely centers about this spot whereon we stand to-day than any other spot within the borders of our State. And as we to-day are celebrating the close of one glorious century of statehood in Illinois, let us have the confidence that with the aid of our boys across the sea, we are going to conquer the perils that beset us and embark upon another century of equal glory and of equal usefulness to the world. I thank you. (Applause).

Illinois Centennial Half Dollar.

SINCE the passage of the bill by Congress authorizing the coinage of one hundred thousand half dollars to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the admission of Illinois into the Union, every effort has been made to expedite the carrying out of this plan. The bill provides that the design for this special half dollar shall be selected by the Director of the Mint and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. The matter was referred by the authorities at Washington to the United States Mint at Philadelphia. The Superintendent of the Mint expressed a willingness to receive suggestions, and accordingly Hugh S. Magill, Jr., Director of the Illinois Centennial Celebration, was authorized by the Centennial Commission to go to Philadelphia and confer with the authorities there regarding the designs for this special coin.

As a result of Mr. Magill's conference with the superintendent and Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, it was agreed that the coin should have the head of Lincoln on the obverse side and the seal of Illinois on the reverse side, with the inscription, "Centennial of the State of Illinois, 1818-1918."

The Chief Engraver of the Mint, has prepared the models from which the dies will be made, and assurance has been given that the coins will be completed by the middle of August.

It is planned to distribute these coins to the County Centennial Committees of the State at their par value, in proportion to population, and that they shall be sold at one dollar each, the profit to be used to promote county Centennial celebrations, or if a satisfactory county celebration has already been held, then the proceeds to be devoted to some approved war relief. In accordance with the provisions of the bill, the coins are legal tender for their face value and are subject to the regulations and privileges of the regular United States coin.

As soon as these coins are received arrangements will be made by the Director for their distribution.

Schools to Resume Giving Pageants.

PUBLIC schools in every section of Illinois took an active interest in the presentation of the Centennial pageant, the masques and little plays during last spring. Owing to the press of other duties, however, many schools which wished to give Centennial programs found it impossible to devote sufficient time to them. These, almost without exception, will hold celebrations early in the new school year, either in September or October.



Children of France.

On October 13 the Chicago schools are preparing for a great celebration, which will include every school center in Chicago. This will be the most elaborate celebration of any event ever attempted by the Chicago schools. The plans are being worked out by E. E. Cole, first assistant superintendent of schools.

In many of the recreation centers of Chicago the six little plays are being given this summer. They have been found very attractive to both children and parents and they lend themselves to just this sort of use. Accompanying this article are photographs of two of the six little plays, "The Children of France" and "The Children of the Illini," as they were



Children of the Illini.

staged by Theodore J. Smorgalski, superintendent of recreation centers. The costuming is accurate and the stage effect is very good. All of the plays were given under Mr. Smorgalski's direction.

Many public and parochial schools throughout the State have given these little plays with marked success.

Kaskaskia: An Ode.

[By Wallace Rice.]

[Read at Fort Gage, Randolph County, July 4, 1918.]

How weak, how futile, seem mere words today
When every swing of Fate's great pendulum
Beats to the roar of giant guns 'neath grey
Astonished heavens thunderous and grum!
How idle, words, when hour by hour such deeds
Of courage and self-sacrifice cry out
As draw our wondering tears, and throbs and bleeds
The Nation's spirit in our warriors' shout!
Along the seas, where coward murderers hide,
Our sailors steadfastly keep open path;
On desperate miles our soldiers constant bide,
The instruments of God's Eternal Wrath;
And we speak words! Yet they are words of cheer.
Beyond, tho' ruined now and desolate,
Sleeps old Kaskaskia, and we shall hear
Of destiny thro' this evangel of our State.

The urgent Mississippi round her rolls
Adown this Valley of a Continent.
Herein today how many a million souls
Are reaping generous harvests of content!
The gift of summer sun and rippling flow
Thro' fruitful hours of free men's willing toil,
The comfort of the world is in this glow
From league on league of fructifying soil.
See how the emerald plumes of corn unfold
Bring in their satisfying sheen and swing,
Forthgrowing fair from tiny grains of gold
In nature's miracle of bourgeoning;
But yonder was a greater marvel wrought
By friendliness and spiritual health
Where honor, chivalry, and truth were taught
And lived by the forefathers of our Commonwealth

Look up and down our Valley's visioning;
Gaze east and west with comprehending eyes!
Northward our inland waters lift and sing;
And south the Gulf is blue 'neath tropic skies;
Far to the east vast mountain ranges stay
The Valley; toward the sunset its arrest
Is on the snow-clad peaks a world away:
How glorious a growth is here, how blest!
On multitudinous plains between, which smile
Upon the affluents of the river there,
The hopes of all the world have domicile:
Men for its war-hosts, bread to lighten care.
A score of States now rise, of queenly mien,
Sacredly sworn to do their utmost deed.
For Liberty—from Illinois' demesne
Arise, for on yon isle was sown their single seed.

In kindness, to dull the edge of war,
Kaskaskia was born beside the stream.
Athwart the terrors these broad prairies bore
The Cross sent thence its mild compelling gleam.
There, first in all this Valley, on those leas
Our race found resting place for wandering feet.
Worshipped our God and published His decrees
Thro' lengthening years, and peace was lasting, sweet
There lay the city, now in ruin laid
And all its beauty fled and far away,
Wherein the Valley saw the prelude played
To its tremendous drama. Tho' astray,
The world comes back to confidence in God
And Man, finding here inspiration sure
For faith renewed while passing 'neath His rod,
Leaving our heavenly hope and human trust secure.

The fathers of our Illinois lie here
Beside us, gratefully remembered still.
High their devotion, free their hearts from fear,
Earnest their wish to know and keep God's Will.
Homely their virtues, arduous their hours
Of labor, but its fruits and flowers were theirs;
Greed and injustice and a despot's powers
Theirs to despise, and heard their simple prayers.
For poverty they knew devoid of dread despair,
Concordant spirits touching happiness,
With little mirths and gayeties to share
In freedom from the greater world's distress.

Give them all honor! Far from their own land
Their profitable lives on history's page
They wrote without repining, and shall stand
Blessed thro' all time by us who hold their heritage.

Romance shone here in many a deed and name.
LaSalle and Tonti o'er those waters wend,
Discoverer and statesman crowned by fame,
Not least because he won so true a friend,
Then Seventeen Hundred dawned. Good Pere Marest
Rose with it. This was centuries ago.
The Illini flock hitherward to pray,
Hearing The Word, and safe from every foe.
A pleasant scene it was, now worn so bare:
The virgin forest virgin prairie met
Below, with swaying trees in summer air
And fragrant flowers in tossing grasses set;
With nuts and fruits and berries ruby bright,
The bison and his herds, the elk and deer,
Carolling birds—'twas peace with plenty dight,
An earthly paradise upon a far frontier.

The thirst for gold, the search for sudden gain,
The Mississippi Bubble and its lures,
Hunger for empire, and old Slavery's pain,
Here frowned, here passed, where Time alone endures.
Hereby the royal walls of Fort de Chartres
Set forth the slender stage whereon we see
Reflected ray by glittering ray the part
The Sun-King played of radiant majesty.
Thence D'Artaguet his piteous army leads,
De Villier goes to conquer Washington;
And Braddock falls, what time Kaskaskia speeds
Her silvery lance toward the rising sun.
Then, then at last the fluttering flag of France
Falls, as may sink the day adown the west,
And gone our Golden Age and old romance,
To rise in this new morning with new meaning dressed.

How distant seems today the gleeful France
That danced so long ago to melodies
Upon yon sward, as tho' fond circumstance
Found in this newer West Hesperides!
Yet golden lilies here our hearts rejoice,
Smiling to azure heavens as of yore,
And wistfully recchoes here the voice
Of the unconquered France whom we adore,
Our Mother still, else were we motherless.
Here o'er an empire ruled her brave and fair;
A jewel in a jocund wilderness
Their capital—yon village now laid bare.
A promise was it, and a Providence,
With every memory ringing sound and true.
How loyally and with what reverence
This venerable fealty we here renew

A while, a little while, old Britain comes
A conqueror here and floats her bannered flame
Until Virginia rolls victorious drums
As "Liberty!" her frontiersmen proclaim!
The Northwest here is made American
Forever, as Fate thunders slowly on;
Tho' only now discerned the Almighty's Plan
Enfolded in these ages we thought gone:
Dead is the day when Tyranny and Hate
Can Britain and her free descendants part
Or France from England hold—how brave the Fate
Uniting as one country with one heart
The untainted origins of Illinois!
The tyrants on the Thames and by the Seine
Time's slow inevitable hands destroy,
And there, as here, today the sovran people reign.

Here, on this distant and secluded sod—
In little, purposes the greatest run—
We see the everlasting arm of God
Guarding the empires that lost here, and won.
Virginia's word, the war-cry of the free,
"Thus ever unto tyrants!" trumpets far
Across the seas to herald Victory.
And eyes war-weary glimpse the morning star.
To thrust a maddened monster to his knee,
Her swift blade drawn and scabbard thrown away
Staunchly beside us battles Italy.
Who gave us Tonti in our dawn of day.
And we, to whom our Illinois is dear,
Hail all these ancient friends with newer pride
In the Great Cause that casteth out all fear,
Our God's Eternal Cause in Freedom's glorified.

The Centennial Memorial Building.

A GREAT lasting monument of the Centennial will be the State Centennial building, the corner stone of which is to be laid during the first week in October. Plans for the building and for a future building program covering a period of many years have been approved by the Department of Public Works and Buildings and by the State Centennial Building Commission, which is composed of Governor Frank O. Lowden, Secretary of State Louis L. Emmerson, Lieutenant Governor John G. Oglesby, Speaker David E. Shanahan, Thomas Rinaker of Carlinville, and Edward W. Payne of Springfield.

The new building is to stand in the northeast corner of the grounds purchased for it south of the Capitol. It will be connected with the Capitol by a long colonnade, extending from the east entrance of the Capitol. The building combines the memorial effect with the utilitarian office building. In the front there will be three high stories, merging into five stories in the rear, which will be devoted to offices. There will be room in the memorial section for the libraries, the museums, halls of fame, memorial rooms, etc.

The projected building plan for the future provides for the construction of another building on the northwest section, in the corner of the ground connected with the Capitol from the west entrance. What is now Charles Street will be converted into a driveway, with a large parking space for automobiles between the two new buildings. Statuary and shrubbery will make the grounds attractive. It is also proposed to extend the State grounds along Second Street back to the railroad, taking in all the ground between Jackson Street and Monroe Street for State purposes.

The power plant which now stands in front of the Capitol would be removed to a more secluded part of the grounds and room would be left for another building where it now stands. This with the improvement of the surrounding streets, would give Illinois one of the most artistic capitols in the United States.

The object in projecting these plans at this time is to make it possible to erect the new Centennial building in harmony with what may be done in the future. The intention is, in this Centennial year, to look forward to the needs of the new century.

The last General Assembly appropriated \$100,000 for the laying of the foundation of the new building, the intention being to appropriate more money at the next session for the completion of the structure. The work on the foundation will be commenced at once, in order that the wall may be ready for the laying of the corner stone in October on the anniversary of the meeting of the first Legislature and the inauguration of the first State officers.



Official Party Which Made Pilgrimage to Kaskaskia. Taken at Ft. Gage With Monument in Rear.

SWENSON
PRINT

ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chairman, 38 South Dearborn St., Chicago
Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary, State Capitol, Springfield
Dr. Edward Bowe, Jacksonville
Hon. John J. Brown, Vandalia
Hon. John W. Bunn, Springfield
Hon. William Butterworth, Moline
Hon. Leon A. Colp, Marion
Rev. R. W. Emmis, Mason City
Professor E. B. Greene, 315 Lincoln Hall, Urbana
President Edmund J. James, University of Illinois, Urbana
Hon. George Pasfield, Jr., Springfield
Hon. William N. Pelouze, 12 West Delaware Place, Chicago
Hon. A. J. Poorman, Jr., Fairfield
Judge Thomas F. Scully, County Building, Chicago
Rev. Frederic Siedenburger, S. J., 617 Ashland Block, Chicago

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Hugh S. Magill, Jr., State Capitol, Springfield

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Horace H. Bancroft, State Capitol, Springfield

PAGEANT WRITER AND LECTURER

Wallace Rice, 2701 Best Avenue, Chicago

MANAGER OF PUBLICITY

Halbert O. Crews, State Capitol, Springfield

EDITOR CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Prof. Clarence Walworth Alvord, University of Illinois

PAGEANT MASTER

Frederick Bruegger, 2420 Cornell Avenue, Chicago

Address all communications to the Director.